

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

2008 WMA Base Funding Work Plan

Humboldt County Department of Agriculture
Member: Humboldt – Del Norte Weed Management Area

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Contract Lead Group:

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Project Managers:

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Project 2: Nancy Bailey, Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC); P.O. Box 409, Orleans, CA 95556; nb_rorisang@yahoo.com (530) 627-3202.

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WMA Group Affiliation: Humboldt – Del Norte Weed Management Area.

Contractual Confirmation: One (1) Basic Grant Funding Contract totaling \$16,758 is requested for Humboldt County. Funding will apply to the three projects described in this work plan.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Project #1: Mattole River Watershed Japanese Knotweed Eradication

Project Goals/Tasks / Deliverables:

- I. Year two eradication efforts at all seven known patches of Japanese Knotweed in the lower mainstem Mattole River corridor. Treatment shall remain integrated due to our community's cautious stance towards herbicide. Persistent cutting and tarping will continue to deprive plants of photosynthate at more stable sites, while those sites with immediate threat of dispersal in the river system will continue to be treated with herbicide.

- II. Monitor a buffer around each infestation site and survey downstream for new infestations. Any new occurrences will be GPS'd and treated promptly.
- III. Utilize volunteers to plant native grasses and shrubs at the knotweed removal sites.
- IV. Monitor knotweed treatment and site revegetation using photo documentation.

Project #2: Meadow Knapweed Containment in Humboldt County: Treatment of Newly Located Occurrences

Project Goals:

To treat newly located satellite occurrences of meadow knapweed in Humboldt County.

Meadow knapweed is a notorious noxious weed that is widespread in British Columbia, Washington, western Oregon, and specific counties in Idaho. Meadow knapweed was recently added as an **A-rated** noxious weed in California where it only occurs in three northwestern counties (in order of abundance): Siskiyou, Del Norte, and Humboldt Counties.

In Humboldt County, meadow knapweed still only occurs as satellite populations on private, state, and federal. In 2007, a project proposal was funded through CDFA Weed Management Area program to contain and eradicate meadow knapweed at specific locales in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. While performing treatment activities in Humboldt County for that project, MKWC and the Yurok Tribe who is assisting with the project, located 3 new populations of meadow knapweed:

- 3-5 acre site of moderate meadow knapweed cover on Yurok Tribal land near the community of Weitchpec
- 2- acre site of dense meadow knapweed cover west (downriver) of the community of Weitchpec between State Highway 96 and the Klamath River.
- < 0.5-acre site of low meadow knapweed cover approximately 10 miles west of Weitchpec in a school yard

The latter site was treated using hand digging and mulching methods. Follow-up treatments should eradicate this occurrence; however resources for the 3-5 and 2 acre were not available through the 2007 grant to adequately address these newly located occurrences.

This current project proposal seeks to obtain funding for treatment and containment of meadow knapweed at these newly identified sites. Containment is the near-term objective for these occurrences on private property and the focus of this proposal for Humboldt County.

This project would contribute to the coordinated effort fostered by the Humboldt-Del Norte Weed Management Area, to contain and eradicate meadow knapweed across Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The current partners are: U.S. Forest Service,

MKWC, Cal Trans, CDFA, Del Norte County Agricultural Commission, and the Yurok Tribe.

Project Objectives and Methods – list milestones and performance measures:

Treatment method effectiveness: The methods will incorporate manual, mechanical and reveg treatments. Previous manual treatment by MKWC combined with weed cloth application across several small sites reduced the number of meadow knapweed stems by 60%; in 2007 primarily juvenile individuals remained at sites. Plugs of native, wild blue rye, a perennial grass, planted at treated sites in 2005 for the purposes of occupying the ground to the exclusion of weeds continue to persist. Consistent mechanical treatments on Yurok land have reduced the reproductive vigor of mature plants.

Objective #1: To reduce the seed bank and contain approximately 7 acres of meadow knapweed on private land and public (state) land in Humboldt County using a combination consistent (and well-timed) weed whacking, manual, weed cloth application, and revegetation techniques.

Task 1 – MKWC will make contact with the Yurok Tribe and Cal Trans to coordinate treatment efforts. MKWC will direct the mechanical treatment of two occurrences before the flowering heads have developed. Site monitoring during the growing season will trigger the need for subsequent treatments over the season.

Task 2 – Weed cloth (which has proven effective in reducing the number and size of meadow knapweed plants at other sites in Humboldt County) may be applied at specific priority sites Year 1 after first treatment.

Task 3- Follow up with treatment regime. Where applicable, distribute locally collected native grass seed (*Elymus glaucus*) and plant native grass plugs grown by Tsemeta (Tribal Nursery). Revegetation stock made available through the Forest Service.

Task 4 – Treatment efforts (before and after) will be documented using standardized forms and submitted to the Forest Service for entry into a centralized Access database which tracks the distribution of meadow knapweed in Humboldt County.

Objective #2: To inventory accessible routes around the documented occurrences.

Task 1: MKWC to develop an inventory strategy which includes identifying the scope of the inventory, soliciting access from private landowners as necessary, documenting routes/areas surveyed on a map and condition.

Task 2: Any new findings will be documented in accordance with established protocols (e.g. include UTM readings, number of plants....).

Task 3: New locations to be submitted to FS.

Performance measures:

1. MKWC will collect the following data at minimum before and after treatment session:

Date:	Entity:	Site # w/ map:	Age class: seedling juvenile/flowering/ fruiting	# of plants pre- treatment	# of plants post- treatment
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2. Data (field forms, mapped information in shapefile format if available) will be submitted by MKWC to Forest Service by December of each year. MKWC will develop a summary report with maps and treatment history and results, and circulate among stakeholders including: Yurok Tribe, Six Rivers National Forest, Cal Trans and CDFG
3. Item #2 as well as quarterly WMA meetings will serve as a check and balance among the stakeholders to ensure work is being accomplished and to provide an opportunity to re-evaluate approaches.

Project #3: Humboldt County Invasives Outreach and Education

Objectives:

Humboldt County will focus on enhancing existing successful treatment projects and outreach materials to have a deeper and more synergistic impact on eradication and prevention through education.

Project Tasks and Deliverables

- I. Revise the Invasive Weeds of Humboldt County; A guide for Concerned Citizens brochure to include additional weeds and potentially expand scope to include Del Norte County.
- II. Develop educational brochures about weeds being actively controlled within the WMA in order to spread public awareness, and potential inspire the public to assist with prevention, early detection and volunteer eradication assistance. Brochures will include information such as what not to plant/spread and also what is currently being treated in the county and who to contact if you have it.
- III. Host a public meeting to discuss WMA projects, and allow for a forum to any concerns the public may have with WMA treatment methods. A trust building meeting.
- IV. Develop theater slides to educate the public of high priority weeds that shall include information of how to contact the WMA with early detection information and basic eradication support and information.